

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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S E C R E T USNATO 3808

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SPC JULY 8 DISCUSSION OF BELGIAN TEXT OF PARA 37
REVIEW

REF: A) USNATO 3301 (NOTAL); B) USNATO 3776

BEGIN SUMMARY: SPC ON JULY 8 DISCUSSED BELGIAN TEXT FOR
GENERAL REVIEW AND WITHDRAWAL PROVISIONS. UK NOTED THAT UNDER
BELGIAN PROPOSAL FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT COULD LAPSE BECAUSE OF
WITHDRAWAL BY ANY DIRECT PARTICIPANT. UK PROPOSED A PROTOCOL
TO MAIN AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR U.S. OR SOVIET
WITHDRAWAL ONLY, FOLLOWING THE REVIEW PROCEDURE IN THE MAIN
AGREEMENT. FRG THOUGHT IT WAS TOO EARLY FOR ALLIES TO STUDY
GENERAL REVIEW AND WITHDRAWAL PROVISIONS. SPC WILL RETURN TO
BELGIAN PROPOSAL JULY 15. MISSION REQUESTS WASHINGTON REACTION.
END SUMMARY.

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1. SPC ON JULY 8 HAD FIRST DISCUSSION ON BELGIAN TEXT FOR THE
MISSING PARA 37 (REVIEW AND WITHDRAWAL PROVISIONS) OF C-M(73)83
(REF A).

2. UK REP SAID HIS AUTHORITIES FOUND BELGIAN PROPOSAL GENERALLY SUITABLE AS A REVIEW PROVISION. HOWEVER, BELGIAN PROPOSAL WOULD PERMIT ANY DIRECT PARTICIPANT TO WITHDRAW FROM FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT. ALLIED DID NOT WANT SITUATION WHERE WITHDRAWAL BY, FOR EXAMPLE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, WOULD CAUSE WHOLE AGREEMENT TO COLLAPSE. OTHER SIDE WOULD HAVE SIMILAR CONSIDERATION. THIS SITUATION WOULD BE UNNECESSARY SINCE ACTUAL PHASE ONE REDUCTIONS LIMITED TO U.S. AND SOVIET UNION. UK RECOGNIZES THAT U.S. AND SOVIET UNION CANNOT BE ONLY PARTIES TO PHASE ONE AGREEMENT, SINCE ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS BOUND TO COMMON CEILING.

3. UK REP SAID ONE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM WOULD BE ADHERENCE BY ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS THE THE MAIN PHASE ONE AGREEMENT, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE (AMONG OTHER THINGS) COMMON CEILING AND BELGIAN REVIEW PROVISION, BUT WITHOUT SPECIFIC PROVISION FOR WITHDRAWAL OR TERMINATION. A PROTOCOL TO THIS AGREEMENT SIGNED BY U.S. AND SOVIET UNION WOULD PROVIDE FOR POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL, FOLLOWING THE REVIEW PROCEDURE SET DOWN IN THE MAIN AGREEMENT. THUS ONLY U.S. OR SOVIET WITHDRAWAL COULD CAUSE AGREEMENT TO LAPSE.

4. FRG REP SAID HIS AUTHORITIES THINK BELGIAN PROPOSAL IS A LAUDABLE EFFORT BUT THEY HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT TIMING OF ALLIANCE WORK ON THIS ISSUE. IT IS HARD TO SPEAK OF DETAILS OF REVIEW PROCEDURE UNTIL WE HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF THE CONTENT OF THE AGREEMENT. HE ALSO NOTED HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVE CONDITIONS FOR WITHDRAWAL WOULD HAVE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC THAN THE BELGIAN PROPOSAL (WHICH REFERS TO "EXCEPTIONAL EVENTS" AND "SUPREME INTERESTS IN JEOPARDY").

5. UK REP SAID ALLIES MIGHT HAVE PLENTY OF TIME ON THIS QUESTION, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, THE OTHER SIDE MIGHT SOON QUESTION AD HOC GROUP ON WHAT POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWAL MIGHT EXIST. FRG REP SAID AHG WOULD NOT NEED TO GIVE SPECIFIC ANSWERS TO OTHER SIDE FOR SOME TIME.

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6. BELGIAN REP SAID HE FOUND UK REACTION VERY INTERESTING AND WOULD REPORT IT TO HIS AUTHORITIES. HE THOUGHT IT USEFUL TO RETURN TO THIS ISSUE NEXT WEEK AND SEE HOW OTHER DELEGATIONS REACT. KASTL (COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN) SAID BELGIAN PROPOSAL WOULD BE ON SPC AGENDA MONDAY, JULY 15.

7. COMMENT: MISSION HOPES TO HAVE REACTION FROM WASHINGTON ON BELGIAN PROPOSAL BY JULY 15 SPC MEETING. WE WISH TO NOTE UTILITY OF SOME SPC WORK ON THIS SUBJECT AT THIS TIME FROM STANDPOINT OF SATISFYING A MAJOR CONCERN IN DUTCH FORMULATION ON FLANK SECURITY, AND THEREBY FOCUSING ATTENTION MORE ON BELGIAN FORMULATION ON FLANK SECURITY. (REF B).
PRENDERGAST.

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